

REMARKS

Claims 31, 38 and 75-79, 81-87, 89-106 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated December 7, 2005, claims 99-101 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 31, 38, 75-79, 86-87, 91-95, and 102-103 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,126,531 to Iida et al. ("Iida"). Claims 88-90 and 104-106 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,869,392 to Kimura ("Kimura"). Claims 80-85 and 96-98 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As a preliminary matter, claims 100-107 have been correctly renumbered as claims 99-106.

The Examiner is thanked for their careful examination of the present application and for their indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant is therefore amending claims in the present application in order to conform with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 31 has been amended to substantially include the subject matter of claim 80 and claim 38 has been amended to substantially include the subject matter of claim 96. Dependent claims 87-90, 99, 102, and 103 were amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for limitations recited therein. Applicant notes that the limitations "the second abrasive particles being different from the first abrasive particles in the filtered flow of the first solution" have been deleted from claims 31 and 38 because the Examiner believes that Iida discloses such limitations. Dependent claims 81 and 97 have been amended to correct their claim dependencies because claims 80 and 96, from which claims 81 and 97 formerly depended from, have been canceled.

With regard to the rejection of claims 99-101 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, claim 99 has been amended to correct its claim dependency.

It is understood, however, that Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejections based on the cited references, and are amending claims solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of the allowable subject matter. Applicant therefore reserves the right to

include any of the present claims, in non-amended form, in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard

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